(c) the norms for declaration of dangerous situation in a mine or mining area for rising water level and the consequent withdrawal of workmen from the mine; and

(d) what action was taken in accordance with such norms in the event of water level rising to nearly 500 mm in the Gaslitand mine area of BCCL in Dhanbad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) From time to time., instructions are issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) indicating precautions (including construction of embankments, if required) to be taken to avert flooding in coal mines where danger of inundation is apprehended. The instructions vary from mine to mine. These generally include, inter-alia, construction and maintenance of embankment if required, framing of standing orders incorporating fixation of withdrawal level and danger level/ warning level of water in nullah/jore/ rivulet etc., checking of vulnerable points of surface, posting of guards to watch level of water in Nullah/jore/rivulet etc., to communicate the danger to various authorised persons.

(c) According to DGMS, in case the postible entry point of water into the mine is less than 1.5 m, above Highest Flood Level (HFL) in case of rivulets, (and 3.0 m. in cases of small river), embankments are to be proviced between the river and the entry points. In such cases withdrawal level is fixed generally 1 m.—2 m. below HFL) and danger mark 0.5 m.—1.5 m. further below depending open various parameters. Dangerous situation in mines or mining area arises when water level reaches danger mark in the river or rivulet and person are to be withdrawn as soon as water reaches the withdrawal level.

(d) A Court of Inquiry to look into the causes and circumstances attending the accident has been constituted by Government.

Setting up of occupational Disease Centres

78. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Occupational disease Centres set up by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the country and the amount spent on these centres during the last two years;

(b) the total number of workers covered under the ESI scheme for health insurance and other integrated social security benefits; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to set up more such centres and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The E.S.I. Corporation has set up four Occupational Disease Centres in different parts of the country. The amount spent on these centres during the last two years was Rs. 2433.40 lakh.

(b) As on 31.3.1995, there were 67.96 lakh employees covered for various benefits under the ESI Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of Rice by FCI

79. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of rice exported by FCI during 1995-96 country-wise and the export price in each case;

(b) whether the prevailing international export price for the Indian rice was fixed before entering into agreements;

(c) whether FCI virtually lost several hundred crores of rupees on account of not selling rice at the internationally competitive prices;

(d) whether the Board of Directors has approved all the deals; and